



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS

T. Choudhary* & G. Thomas**

*Research Scholar, Research Student P. G. T. D. Home Science, RTMNU Nagpur

** Department of Home Science extension, L. A. D. and Smt. R. P. College for Women,
Nagpur

Email ID: tehseen.choudhary@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Economic development is directly related to the agricultural production of any nation. Science and technology are changing constantly. There are various agricultural innovations which are being launched for the development and welfare of the rural people. They should be motivated to try new agricultural innovations which will make them economically stable and will raise their standard of living. The study was conducted in various regions of Nagpur District. 600 samples were selected by Convenience Sampling technique. Data was gathered by the tool Interview Schedule through Survey Method and was analyzed by Percentages. Economic development is possible if people adopt agricultural innovations.

Keywords: Economic development, Innovations, Agricultural innovation

INTRODUCTION

Economic development refers to the continuous increase in production over changing time period. It is dependent upon the producers as well as the consumers to develop the economy of any country. Economic development of a country not only improves the economy but also the political and social well being of the countrymen. It is very clear that economy is directly related to the production capacity of a nation. Economic development as defined below is “the development

of economic wealth of countries, regions or communities for the well being of their inhabitants”. From a policy perspective, economic development can be defined as “efforts that seek to improve the economic well being and quality of life for a community by creating and/or retaining jobs and supporting or growing incomes and the tax base”. It is clear from the above definition that if we want any country to develop and prosper we should improve the quality of life of the people living in it.



Science and technology are changing constantly. There are various innovations which are being invented either for the development and welfare of the people or for reducing their labour or stress. The same way in Indian conditions various innovations are being launched for the development of people especially for the rural masses. Before proceeding further let us focus on what is an innovation. As Rogers E. M. (2005) said “innovation is an idea, object or practice that is perceived as new by an individual or other unit of a social system”. As seen in the above definition that innovation is a particular idea or knowledge which is considered to be new by either one individual or the entire society. Innovation can either be a new idea, a new thought, a new object, a new practice or a new activity. Anything which is never being practiced or never being known to anyone is said to be an innovation.

It is important to make the rural people aware about various innovations which will improve

their agricultural production. These agricultural innovations will help the people in upgrading their knowledge, technology and above all will improvise their age old traditional method of agricultural practices. It is also important to make the people aware about the link between economic development and agricultural innovations. They should be motivated to try new agricultural innovations which will make them economically stable and raise their standard of living. As stated below, “innovation is essential for sustainable growth and economic development. Several core conditions enable innovation and encourage economic growth. In this modern economy, innovation is crucial for value creation, growth and employment and innovation processes take place at the enterprise, regional and national level”. As stated above economic growth and development will take place through using innovative ideas in every field.

The present study “Economic Development through



Agricultural Innovations” focused on the economic development of the respondents through agricultural innovation and was undertaken with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the socio-economic conditions of the respondents.
2. To find out preferences of respondents to old method and new innovations.
3. To find out sustainability of interest in new innovation in respondents.
4. To find out whether there is financial increment after adoption of innovations.

Need and importance of the study

The basic need and importance of the study was to find out whether there is financial increment after adoption of agricultural innovation. The study also focuses on preferences of old and new innovations and sustainability of interest in new innovations in respondents.

The result of this study will be helpful to sociologists, economists, technology providers

and other community development planners to assist them to incorporate the findings in their future work.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in various rural areas of **Nagpur District** covering East, West, North, South and Central regions. **Convenience Sampling** was used to select the samples who have adopted the pre-decided farm technology (Sickle and Cotton Picking bags). **Survey Method** was used to collect data which comprises of **600 samples** from Nagpur District. **Interview Schedule** was the tool used to collect data; which was further analyzed with the help of **Percentage**.

RESULTS

Characteristics of the respondents:

Maximum respondents were found to be of 21-30 years of age, were Hindus (91%) and were married (76%). Maximum respondents stayed in joint families (61%) and had permanent houses (94%). Maximum respondents have completed their



education till Higher Secondary level (44.5%); their main occupation was farming (49.5%) & earned a monthly income more than Rs. 6000/-(64%). Maximum respondents enjoyed various facilities like electric supply (98.5%), water connection (79%), toilet (97%) & medical facilities (91%). Maximum respondents have various social organizations (80.5%) available in their area like small scale industries (82%), Mahila Mandal, Anganwadi & Gram Panchayat.

As seen from the Table 1 it is clear that 77.5% of respondents were in the opinion that the new innovation is more convenient for them to use, while 22.5% respondents felt that the old method is convenient for them.

As it can be seen from the Table 2, 67.5% of respondents interest in the new innovation is

being sustained, while 32.5% respondents interest have declined.

As revealed from the table 3 for 78% of respondents there is financial increment after adoption of innovation, whereas for 22% there is no increment after adoption.

CONCLUSION

Maximum respondent preferred new innovation more convenient for them to use and their interest level which they had for the innovation is sustained. Maximum respondents revealed that there was financial increment after adoption of new innovation, which has developed them economically.

Therefore, it can be inferred that economic development is possible if people adopt agricultural innovations.

Table 1. Preference of old method and new innovation

n=600

Sr. No.	Preferences	Number	Percentage
1	Old method	135	22.5%
2	New innovation	465	77.5%
	Total	600	100%

**Table 2. Sustainability of interest in new innovation in respondents**

n=600

Sr. No.	Options	Number	Percentage
1	Interest sustained	405	67.5%
2	Interest not sustained	195	32.5%
	Total	600	100%

Table 3. Financial Increment after adoption of agricultural innovations

n=600

Sr. No.	Options	Number	Percentage
1	Financial increment	468	78%
2	No increment	132	22%
	Total	600	100%

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